

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A system for providing an ultrasound image of at least a part of an object or body comprising:

an ultrasound imaging apparatus; and

a kit capable of producing a stabilized microbubble preparation comprising an aqueous medium, a plurality of dry microbubble precursors incorporating a gas osmotic agent, said microbubbles precursors defined by a generally spherical shell comprising a first surfactant and a second surfactant wherein said first surfactant comprises a phospholipid or mixture of phospholipids having at least one acyl chain of 10 or more carbon atoms, and said second surfactant is more water soluble than said first surfactant, so that, upon reconstitution with said aqueous medium, said second surfactant facilitates shell dissolution, leaving said first surfactant surrounding said gas osmotic agent to form an osmotically stabilized microbubble.

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